

C1 --1. (Twice Amended) A substantially dry and substantially homogeneous anti-microbial powder coating composition comprising particles each of which is a thermosetting polymer powder and each such particle contains an organic biocide, in a concentration of from 0.1 to 20% by weight, whereby the biocide is substantially uniformly distributed throughout the composition.

9. (Amended) A powder coating composition according to Claim 1, wherein [the] polymer particles comprise a polyester or epoxypolyester or polyurethane or acrylic or other thermosetting powder.

C2 10. (Amended) A method of distributing an organic biocide substantially uniformly in a thermosetting powder coating composition, the method comprising:

mixing precursors of the thermosetting polymer powder together with the organic biocide in a concentration of 0.1 to 20% by weight and heating the mixture to form a hot mixture;

extruding the hot mixture into sheet form;

granulating the sheet to form granules;

grinding the granules to a powder having the size of particles appropriate to powder coating; and

sieving the powder to less than 100 microns whereby the powder may be sprayed electrostatically.

C3 12. (Amended) An anti-microbial powder coating composition comprising [an] one or more anti-microbial [agent] agents homogeneously dispersed within [the] particles of a resin based powder.

13. (Amended) The composition of Claim 12, wherein the powder coating composition comprises 90 to 99.9% by weight of one or more thermosetting and/or thermoplastic compositions based on epoxy, polyester, acrylate, and/or polyurethane resins **as the resin based powder** and 0.1 to 10% by weight of one or more anti-microbial agents.

14. (Amended) The composition of Claim 12, wherein said **one or more** anti-microbial ~~[agent]~~ **agents** further **comprise[s]** solid-anti-microbial agents.

C3 15. (Amended) A method of applying an anti-microbial coating on an article, said method comprising contacting said article with an anti-microbial powder coating composition under conditions sufficient to cause said anti-microbial powder coating composition to adhere to said article, the composition comprising particles each of which is a thermosetting polymer powder and **each of which** contains an organic biocide, in a concentration of from 0.1 to 20% by weight, whereby the biocide is substantially uniformly distributed throughout the coating.

16. (Amended) A method of applying an anti-microbial coating on an article, said method comprising contacting said article with an anti-microbial powder coating composition under conditions sufficient to cause said anti-microbial powder coating composition to adhere to said article, the composition comprising particles **[of] each of which is** a thermoplastic polymer **and each of which contains** [containing] an organic biocide, wherein the organic biocide is substantially uniformly distributed throughout the composition at a concentration of 0.1 to 20% by weight of the coating.

C3 17. (Amended) A method of applying an anti-microbial coating on an article, said method comprising contacting said article with an anti-microbial powder coating composition under conditions sufficient to cause said anti-microbial powder coating composition to adhere to said article, the composition comprising [an anti-microbial agent homogeneously dispersed within the particles of a resin based powder] 90 to 99.9% by weight of one or more thermosetting and/or thermoplastic compositions based on epoxy, polyester, acrylate, and/or polyurethane resins as the resin-based powder and 0.1 to 10% by weight of one or more anti-microbial agents homogenously dispersed therein.

18. (Amended) A method for preparing an anti-microbial powder coating composition, the method comprising [homogeneously] mixing an anti-microbial agent into precursors of a polymer powder [a powder coating pre-mix].

C4 29. (Amended) The method of claim 18[, further] comprising [blending] mixing the polymer precursors and the anti-microbial agent into a mixture, [the components of the powder coating composition using a pre-mixer, feeding the mixture into an extruder, and] heating the mixture, extruding the mixture into sheet form, granulating the sheet to form granules, grinding the granules to a powder and sieving the powder to size [to a temperature high enough to melt it, cooling the melt, and processing the solid extrudate into a coating powder].

Cancel without prejudice, claims 31 and 32.

REMARKS